1.   (Once Amended) A silent chain for reducing wear on a chain guide surface, the chain comprising:

a plurality of link plates each having a pair of tooth parts and pin holes, the link plates arranged in a thickness direction as well as in a length direction, adjacent link plates rotatably linked together using linking pins;

guide links each having a pair of pin holes disposed on outermost sides of the link plates and fixed to the linking pins;

wherein a first distance from a pin hole centerline of each link plate to a link plate surface facing the chain guide is greater than a second distance from a pin hole centerline of each guide link to a guide link surface facing the chain guide, the ratio of the first distance to the second distance effective to prevent substantial contact between the guide link surfaces and the chain guide surface when the chain engages the chain guide.

6.   (Once Amended) A silent chain for reducing wear on a chain guide surface, the chain comprising:

a plurality of link plates each having at least one pair of tooth parts and a pin hole, one tooth part of each pair above and the other below a pin hole centerline, the link plates arranged in a thickness direction as well as in a length direction, adjacent link plates rotatably linked together using linking pins,

guide links disposed on outermost sides of the link plates and fixed to the linking pins,

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wherein a first distance from the pin hole centerline of each link plate to the distal surface of the tooth part facing the chain guide is less than a second distance from the pin hole centerline of each guide link to a guide link surface facing the chain guide, the ratio of the first distance to the second distance is effective to prevent substantial contact between the tooth part distal surfaces and the chain guide when the chain engages the chain guide.

12. (Once Amended) A silent chain having a plurality of links for reducing wear on a chain guide surface when the chain runs thereover, the chain comprising:

a plurality of guide plates having a pair of apertures therethrough for generally fixedly receiving pins to define links, the guide plates having a contact surface;

a plurality of link plates having a pair of apertures therethrough for pivotally receiving the pins to interconnect the links, the link plates having a contact surface;

the guide plate apertures and the guide link apertures relatively positioned to generally maintain the link contact surface in contact with the chain guide surface and the guide plate contact surface out of substantial contact with the chain guide surface to reduce wear on the contact surface.

Please cancel claim 7.

Please add the following new claims:

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14.   (New) A silent chain according to Claim 1, wherein the guide link pin holes have a diameter ϕDg, the link plate pin holes have a diameter ϕDl, the pins have a diameter ϕd, the link plate first distance is hl, the guide link second distance is hg, and the distance between the guide link surfaces and the chain guide is e; the relationship between the link plate pin holes and e is expressed by the formula $e = \frac{1}{2} (\phi Dl - \phi d)$; and hl - hg is greater than or equal to e.

15.   (New) A silent chain according to Claim 14, wherein the guide link pin hole diameter ϕDg is substantially the same as the pin diameter ϕd, and the ratio of the guide link distance hg to the link pin hole diameter ϕDl is sufficient to permit the rotation of the link plates about the pins while preventing substantial contact between the guide link surfaces and the chain guide surfaces when the chain engages the chain guide.

16.   (New) A silent chain according to Claim 6, wherein the guide link pin holes have a diameter ϕDg, the link plate pin holes have a diameter ϕDl, the pins have a diameter ϕd, the link plate first distance is hl, the guide link second distance is hg, and the distance between the link plate surfaces and the chain guide is e; the relationship between the link plate pin holes and e is expressed by the formula $e = \frac{1}{2} (\phi Dl - \phi d)$; and hg - hl is greater than or equal to e.